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To R9\_Hot Issues

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Subject HOT ISSUES -- 1/10/08

## HOT ISSUES

Office of Public Affairs

Thursday, January 10, 2008

**Greka Oil Spill coverage:** More than 25,000 gallons of crude oil was spilled near Buellton, California on Saturday, but the spill was not even discovered until 13 hours after it started, according to a report on the incident issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA. Dan Meer and Mary Simms are quoted.

AP: <http://cbs2.com/local/Los.Olivos.Oil.2.626748.html> (video included)

<http://www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=15384>

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2008/2008-01-09-094.asp>

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=7603021> (video included)

[http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_7930209?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_7930209?nclink_check=1)

**Admiral Transportation coverage:** EPA has fined Admiral Transportation of City of Industry, California, \$15,000 for violating federal hazardous waste regulations.

<http://enviro.blr.com/display.cfm/id/84625>

<http://normanswei.wordpress.com/2008/01/08/29/>

**Education fund pays Ordot dump fines:** The decision made by Governor Felix Camacho to tap into the Territorial Education Facilities Fund to pay \$2.8 million in fines for the Ordot consent decree isn't sitting well with various members of the community. Officials maintain the timing of the withdrawal couldn't be any worse.

<http://www.kuam.com/news/26014.aspx>

[http://www.mvariety.com/?module=displaystory&story\\_id=5053&format=html](http://www.mvariety.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=5053&format=html)

**CA waiver lawsuit:** Several high-profile environmental groups have joined a number of California leaders by challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision denying the state the right to implement its own greenhouse-gas-emissions law.

<http://www.newsreview.com/chico/Content?oid=612724>

**Delta fish worse than ever:** The results of a key survey made available Wednesday offer no hope anytime soon for relief of increasing tensions between those working to protect the Delta environment and those who rely on it for the state's water supply, and have biologists worried that one fish, Delta smelt, could be nearing extinction. Bruce Herbold quoted. Article also appeared in the Contra Costa Times.

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci\\_7930808](http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_7930808)

**Climate change commitments get cold-shoulder:** Since 2005, seven mayors from across the region have made a bold pledge on global warming: Their cities will do everything possible to meet or beat the goals outlined in the Kyoto Protocol. But in the time since local mayors made their pledges, few have followed through with concrete action that will guarantee their city's residents will emit fewer greenhouse gases in 2012 than they did in 1990.

<http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/articles/2008/01/10/news/warming011008.txt>



## On/Off Capitol Hill

**Congressional birthday's in Region 9 this week** - Thursday, January 10, 2008 - Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.), 70

**Senate Environment and Public Works Committee - California Greenhouse Gas Waiver - Investigating EPA's Obstruction of Global Warming Controls for Vehicles-** Full committee field briefing on the EPA's (EPA) denial of California's request for a waiver to regulate greenhouse gas pollution from motor vehicles. Witnesses: Attorney General of California Edmund Brown Jr.; Mary Nichols, chairman of the California Air Resources Board; Fran Pavley, senior advisor at the Natural Resources Defense Council; and Carl Pope, executive director of Sierra Club. **Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-CA) and the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa**, will also make statements. Location: Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring St., City Council Chamber, Los Angeles, Calif.. 10 a.m. Contact: 202-224-8832 <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

**Environment - The Ceres/Investor Network on Climate Risk - Conference call on "Ranking Banks on Climate Issues."** Participants: Russell Read, chief investment officer for the California Public Employees Retirement System; Mindy Lubber, president of Ceres and director of the Investor Network on Climate Risk; and Douglas Cogan, report author from Risk Metrics. 10 a.m. Contact: Peyton Fleming, 617-247-0700 ext. 20, [fleming@ceres.org](mailto:fleming@ceres.org); or Patrick Mitchell, 703-276-3266, [pmitchell@hastingsgroup.com](mailto:pmitchell@hastingsgroup.com)

**Senate Floor - Agenda -** Senate meets at 9 a.m. in a pro forma session. Pro Forma SessionThe Senate will next meet on January 22. For current information on the Senate's legislative program please visit the Senate's website at <http://www.senate.gov/>

**House Floor - Agenda -** United States House of Representatives is not in session. The House will next meet on January 15. For current information on the House legislative program please visit the House of Representatives' website at <http://www.house.gov/>

### Upcoming Hearings/Meetings

**January 23 - 25, 2008 - US Conference of Mayors' 76th Winter Meeting in Washington, DC.** - The Environment Committee, Chaired by Mayor Pat McCrory (Charlotte, N.C.) will meet on Thursday, January 24. Mayor Don L. Robart (Cuyahoga Falls, OH) serves as Vice Chair for Recycling. The Committee does not consider resolutions during the winter meeting. The Mayors Water Council (Co-Chairs, Mayors Martin Chavez, Albuquerque, N.M. and Dan Coody, Fayetteville, AK) will convene on Friday, January 25. Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water has been invited to address the Council and his scheduled appearance is being finalized. Grumbles will discuss EPA's 2008 water agenda and engage in discussion and dialogue with the Mayors. The Mayors Water Council is a task force of the US Conference of Mayors. The Council provides a forum for discussion of issues impacting how cities provide and protect water and wastewater services to the community. The Council also originates water policy resolutions that are considered by the Environment Committee. Grumbles has addressed the Council on many occasions and continues to work closely with the member Mayors. Contact: M. Arnita Hannon

**TENTATIVE - Monday February 4, 2008 - Release of the President's FY 2009 Budget - The Bush**

administration's final budget rollout will be paper-free. The fiscal 2009 budget proposal will be distributed online Feb. 4 to Congress and the media, rather than through traditional heavy print volumes handed out by the Government Printing Office. Not distributing the 3,000 copies of the four-volume budget set should save nearly 20 tons of paper, or about 480 trees, according to the White House Office of Management and Budget. OMB says the "E-Budget" will save about \$1 million over five years.

#### Political Trivia for January 10, 2008

Which auto exec twice won Michigan presidential primaries -- once in each party? (Correct answer below, so make your guess before scrolling down)

- a) Lee Iacocca
- b) Henry Ford
- c) George Romney
- d) Robert McNamara



Larry Wright, Detroit, Michigan, The Detroit News

**Answer: b) Ford**, the automotive inventor and founder of the Ford Motor Company, won the Michigan primary as a Republican in 1916 and as a Democrat in 1924. He did not run national campaigns in either year, instead defeating other Michigan candidates in each year for "favorite son" status and influence at the national convention that then actually chose the nominee. The 1916 Republican nomination went to Charles Evans Hughes, a Supreme Court justice, who lost that November to Democratic incumbent Woodrow Wilson; the 1924 Democratic nomination went to John W. Davis, a former U.S. House member and ambassador, who lost to Republican incumbent Calvin Coolidge. Ford's political views were highly controversial in their day. He established himself as a pacifist during the World War I era and strongly opposed U.S. involvement in that conflict, though his plants did produce equipment for American troops after the nation entered the war in 1917. More inflammatory was Ford's ownership of the Dearborn Independent newspaper, which published strongly anti-Semitic material that was compiled into a book called "The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem." Ford's defenders at the time contended

that he was unaware of the virulent content of the paper and had good personal relationships with Jewish associates, but critics pointed out that editorials for the paper were published under Ford's own name. Ford, who purchased the paper in 1920, shut it down in 1927 in the face of public agitation and a libel lawsuit. Romney, who once headed the American Motors Corporation, did run a short-lived bid for the 1968 Republican presidential nomination while in the midst of his second term as governor of Michigan. But the state did not hold a presidential primary that year. Romney, who died in 1995, was the father of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, whose campaign for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination faces a stiff test in the Jan. 15 Michigan primary after his second-place finishes in the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses and Jan. 8 New Hampshire primary. Iacocca, who at different junctures headed the Ford Motor Company and the Chrysler Corporation, was a colorful spokesman for his company's products and was occasionally courted by activists in both parties to run for public office. But he never did. Neither did McNamara, a former president of the Ford Motor Company who drew national prominence – and controversy – as the secretary of defense under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, a position in which he oversaw the escalation of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

**Did You Know?** Thomas Stevens was the first person to circle the globe by bicycle. Leaving San Francisco at 8 o'clock on April 22, 1884, he traveled eastward towards the United States. He reached Boston after 3700 miles on wagon trails, railroad ways, canal towpaths and public roads, to complete the first transcontinental bicycle ride on August 4, 1884. He continued his journey around the world through England, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slavonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Rumelia, Turkey. Having been refused permission to travel through Siberia, he set off on March 10, 1886 through Afghanistan where he was expelled by local authorities. He took a Russian steamer across the Caspian to Baku; rail to Batoum; steamer to Constantinople and India which he bicycled across. Another steamer brought him from Calcutta to Hong Kong and southern China. He pedalled to eastern China, escaped rioters who were angry over a war with the French, and took a steamer to Japan. The bicycle part of his journey around the world ends December 17, 1886, at Yokohama. Stevens returned by steamer to San Francisco, in January, 1887. Stevens' bicycle was preserved until World War II, when it was donated to a scrap drive to support the war effort.